



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

29 JANUARY 2025

'Chai pe Charcha' with taxi drivers at LGBI Airport

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 28: As part of its commitment to 'Going the Extra Miles for Services' (GEMS), Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBI) organized a productive 'Chai pe Charcha' session with taxi drivers at the airport recently.

The session aimed to align the taxi drivers with the vision of the New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) and the overall development of the airport, fostering a sense of collective growth. Key areas discussed during the session included zero cash transactions and digitalization, self-grooming and cleanliness, 'Greet, Smile, and Thank You (GST)' highlighting the importance of a simple greeting, smile, and

polite 'Thank You' in enhancing passenger satisfaction, NITB visuals showcasing the upcoming terminal, sparking excitement and pride among the drivers.

The interactive session concluded on a positive note, with taxi drivers expressing their eagerness for the upcoming improvements and feeling involved in the airport's growth.

"We are committed to providing exceptional services to our passengers, and our taxi drivers play a vital role in this endeavour," said a Guwahati International Airport Limited (GIAL) spokesperson. "We look forward to continuing such interactive sessions to strengthen our collective efforts and achieve greater success for everyone involved."



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

एयरपोर्ट को उड़ानों के ऑपरेशन से ज्यादा रिटेल, फूड, हॉस्पिटैलिटी से हो रही कमाई, दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट की आय में इसका हिस्सा 57%

अभिजीत कुमार | नई दिल्ली

दुनिया के कई एयरपोर्ट की कमाई उड़ानों से अधिक नॉन-एविएशन एक्टिविटीज से हो रही है। इसमें रिटेल स्टोर्स, हॉस्पिटैलिटी, एडवर्टाइजिंग और फूड सर्विस जैसे सेगमेंट आते हैं। एसीआई वर्ल्ड के मुताबिक 2019 तक एयरपोर्ट की कमाई में 60% हिस्सा एविएशन एक्टिविटीज और एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेशन से आता था। इसमें एयरक्राफ्ट लैंडिंग फीस, टर्मिनल फीस, पार्किंग चार्ज और

पहली बार दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट में तीन महीने में 2 करोड़ यात्री

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट देश में सबसे व्यस्त है। अक्टूबर-दिसंबर 2024 तिमाही के दौरान इस एयरपोर्ट से रिकॉर्ड 2 करोड़ से ज्यादा यात्रियों ने यात्रा की। इस दौरान पैसेंजर ट्रेफिक में 8.3% और कमाई में 8.1% की बढ़ोतरी हुई। वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के पहली नौ महीनों में, दिल्ली ने भारत के घरेलू हवाई यातायात का 17% और इंटरनेशनल एयर ट्रेफिक का 28% हिस्सा संभाला।

पैसेंजर सिव्युरिटी फीस से कमाई होती थी। लेकिन अब यह ट्रेंड पलट गया है। सिंगापुर के चांगी एयरपोर्ट की कुल कमाई में 55% हिस्सा नॉन-एविएशन

एक्टिविटी से आता है। कमर्शियल रेवेन्यू की ओर ये बदलाव एक रणनीतिक कदम है, क्योंकि एयरपोर्ट ज्यादा ट्रेफिक वाले इलाकों से अधिकतम कमाई करने के

लिए रिटेल और हॉस्पिटैलिटी सर्विसेज का इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर विकसित कर रहे हैं। देश का सबसे व्यस्त दिल्ली का इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट भी इस ट्रेंड से अछूता नहीं है। एविएशन सर्विसेज कमाई के मामले में पीछे छूट गई है। मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष के पहले नौ महीनों में एयरपोर्ट की कुल कमाई में एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेशन की कमाई का हिस्सा महज 20% रह गया। 57% कमाई नॉन एविएशन एक्टिविटीज से हुई। इसमें रिटेल और ड्यूटी फ्री सेल्स का योगदान 28% रहा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

29 JANUARY 2025

एयरपोर्ट : जयपुर-कुल्लू की फ्लाइट नियमित हुई

जयपुर | अब जयपुर-कुल्लू की फ्लाइट नियमित रूप से संचालित होगी। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार जयपुर से कुल्लू के लिए अलायंस एयर की डायरेक्ट फ्लाइट संचालित होती है, लेकिन 16 जनवरी तक अनियमित चल रही थी। दरअसल एयरलाइंस द्वारा कुल्लू में कोहरे और संचालन कारणों की वजह से उड़ान को आए दिन रद्द किया जा रहा था, लेकिन अब फ्लाइट नियमित संचालित हो रही है। फ्लाइट संख्या 9आई-808 जयपुर से सुबह 8:15 बजे कुल्लू जाती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

29 JANUARY 2025

Mumbai airport to begin redvpt of T1 in Nov

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

Mumbai International Airport Limited, operator of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, is set to undertake redevelopment of Terminal 1 (T1).

Once complete, the new terminal, with a built-up area of more than 2 million square feet, will be able to manage 20 million passengers annually, a 42% boost in capacity.

The redevelopment will be carried out in phases to minimise disruption to airport operations. The initial phase involves the demolition of the



existing structure, starting from November 2025, followed by construction of the new terminal.

CSMIA T2, along with Navi Mumbai International Airport, scheduled to be operational soon, will manage the

capacity gap created by the demolition of T1. Together, the airports will accommodate passengers and flight schedules to meet the growing demands of both Mumbai City and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

New terminal, with a built-up area of more than 2 million square feet, will manage 20 million passengers yearly

“The team at CSMIA is working with our stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition, with minimum disruption to daily operations or passenger experience,” said Jeet Adani, director of Adani Airport Holdings Limited.

The project is estimated to be completed in 2028-2029.

The new T1 will set a benchmark for eco-conscious airport design as it aspires to be India's first brownfield, biophilic, sustainable airport.

An overhaul of the terminal building will cater to domestic operations, while allowing future integration of international services. With a capacity of 20 million passengers per annum, the terminal is expected to meet the growing demands of India's burgeoning aviation market.

The multi-modal transit hub will be the nexus of Mumbai's air, rail and road networks. Passengers will be able to experience seamless

connectivity, ranging from direct metro access to underground bus stations.

During the construction, T2 will shoulder the additional traffic. Advanced technologies such as DigiYatra, self-baggage drop, and e-gates are expected to ensure smooth passenger movement despite the increased footfall. Moreover, additional service staff will also be deployed at key locations to assist passengers during peak travel periods. Airlines and other stakeholders will be informed well in advance to ensure uninterrupted flight schedules.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

Fairfax India secures investor nod to raise stake in BIAL to 74%

Hemanth C.S.

BENGALURU

Fairfax India Holdings Corporation said its shareholders have approved a one-time deviation from its investment concentration restriction, allowing the acquisition of an additional 10% equity interest in Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which is the operator of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, the third busiest in India.

The company had held a special meeting of shareholders on January 28 in this connection.

In December, Fairfax had entered into an agreement to acquire an additional 10% equity interest in BIAL from Siemens Project Ventures GmbH. On December 3, the company announced, once the transaction is completed, Fairfax India's equity interest in BIAL would increase from 64% to 74% (30.4% to be held by a wholly-owned subsidiary and 43.6% by its subsidiary Anchorage Infrastructure Investments Holdings Limited).

"At the special meeting, the special resolution was approved by 100% of the votes cast by holders of multiple voting shares, and approximately 99% of the votes cast by holders of subordinate voting shares," Fairfax India informed on Wednesday.

The equity interest in BIAL owned by Indian state promoters – the Airports Authority of India and Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. stays unchanged at 13% each, the firm said.

T1 upgrade to raise passenger capacity by '29



Phase 1 of the upgrade will have the existing structure demolished, traffic will be directed to T2 during this time.

HT Correspondent

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MUMBAI: T1, the oldest terminal of Mumbai airport, will undergo a massive overhaul and soon have the capability to process 20 million passenger per annum (MPPA). This is a 42% increase from its current capacity, ensuring the terminal meet demands of India's burgeoning aviation market. The reconstruction will be carried out in phases, starting by November 2025 and is expected to be completed by 2028-29, with minimal disruption. T2 will shoulder additional traffic in this time.

The phase 1 of T1's modernisation will begin with the demolition of the existing structure in November. Following this, the terminal will be reconstructed. During the makeover, the T2 and Navi Mumbai International Airport, which will open by April 2025, will accommodate passen-

gers and flight schedules to meet the growing demands of both Mumbai City and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), a spokesperson said.

Presently, T1 is mainly used by Indigo. With a complete overhaul of the Passenger Terminal Building (PTB), the new T1 will cater to domestic operations, while allowing future integration of international services.

The GVK Industries, which once owned Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), had done the aluminium cladding and constructed new terminal after they took over. The airport is now owned by Adani airports. Jeet Adani, Director, Adani Airport Holdings Limited said, "This redevelopment is not only about expanding capacity, it is about future-proofing our city's place on the global stage. Our priority remains to deliver the exceptional service that our passengers expect."



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

बस सेवा से जुड़ेगा नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा

तैयार किया जा रहा मार्ग नक्शा, शासन को भेजा जाएगा प्रस्ताव

जनसत्ता संवाददाता
ग्रेटर नोएडा, 29 जनवरी।

पश्चिमी यूपी के 17 जिलों को नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से जोड़ने के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम के साथ मिलकर मार्ग तय करने जा रहा है। रोडवेज बसों के संचालन के लिए प्रस्ताव बनाकर शासन को भेजा जा रहा है। वहां से अनुमति मिलने के बाद बसें संचालित होंगी। इससे लोगों को हवाई अड्डा आने-जाने में आसानी होगी।

परिवहन सेवा के जरिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से चार मंडल के जिले जोड़े जाएंगे। इस दायरे में यूपी, दिल्ली समेत हरियाणा और राजस्थान के करीब 24 जिले आ रहे हैं। फिलहाल मेरठ, सहारनपुर, अलीगढ़ और आगरा मंडल के जिलों को इससे जोड़ने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। अभी तक जेवर में बन रहे हवाई अड्डे तक पहुंचने के लिए कोई विशेष सुविधा उपलब्ध

नहीं है। मेट्रो, नमो भारत परियोजना को शुरू होने में लंबा समय लगेगा। ऐसे में बसों से हवाई अड्डे तक सीधी संपर्क व्यवस्था दी जाएगी।

इन शहरों को जोड़ने की योजना : अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से मेरठ, वागपत, बुलंदशहर, गाजियाबाद, गौतमबुद्ध नगर, हापुड़, सहारनपुर, मुजफ्फरनगर, शामली, अलीगढ़, हाथरस, कासगंज, एटा, आगरा, फिरोजाबाद, मथुरा और मैनपुरी तक बसें संचालित करने की योजना बनाई जा रही। उड़ानें संचालित होने से पहले ही बस सेवा शुरू करने की उम्मीद जताई जा रही है। भविष्य में गुरुग्राम, झज्जर, रेवाड़ी, रोहतक, सोनीपत, पानीपत, करनाल, फरीदाबाद, पलवल, मेवात (नूंह), भिवानी, महेंद्रगढ़ तक भी बसें चलाई जाएंगी। नोएडा, ग्रैनो और यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण ने 23 मार्गों पर ई-बसों के संचालन की कार्य योजना तैयार की जा रही है। शहर में चलने वाली 35 सीट की सभी बसें इलेक्ट्रिक होंगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

29 JANUARY 2025

Mumbai airport operator MIAL to redevelop T1 to increase passenger handling capacity

MUMBAI: Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), operator of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), is set to embark on a landmark transformation with the redevelopment of Terminal 1 (T1).

This ambitious project will redefine passenger experience and set an unprecedented standard in sustainability and innovation. Once complete, the new terminal will be able to manage 20 million passengers annually, an impressive 42 per cent boost in capacity, reflecting the dynamic growth of Mumbai.

The redevelopment of Terminal 1 will be carried out in phases to minimise disruption to airport operations

As Mumbai continues to soar as an international aviation hub, the new terminal, with a built-up area of over two million sq. ft., is poised to become a hallmark of digitisation and consumer convenience. The redevelopment of Terminal 1

will be carried out in phases to minimise disruption to airport operations.

The initial phase involves the demolition of the existing structure, starting from November 2025, followed by construction of the new terminal. CSMIA T2, along with Navi Mumbai International Airport, scheduled to be operational in 2025, will manage the capacity gap created by the demolition of T1.

Together, the airports will accommodate passengers and flight schedules to meet the growing demands of both Mumbai City and the Mumbai

Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Speaking on the development, Jeet Adani, Director, Adani Airport Holdings Limited said, "The team at CSMIA is working tirelessly with our stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition, with minimum disruption to daily operations or passenger experience. This redevelopment is not only about expanding capacity—it is about future proofing our city's place on the global stage. Our priority remains to deliver the exceptional service that our passengers have come to expect."

MPOST



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

29 JANUARY 2025

**Flyer steals bag at Pune airport,
nabbed on landing in Delhi**

Pune: A 55-year-old woman surreptitiously lifted a designer bag from a store in Pune airport this week. She was stopped a couple of hours later at Delhi airport, and allowed to leave only after paying for the stolen item. Perfect coordination among CISF personnel in Pune and Delhi airports made the recovery possible. The incident occurred on Jan 27. TNN

Airlines cash in on Kumbh Mela fervour

Bengaluru to Prayagraj airfare higher than cost of flight tickets to Singapore, Bangkok, and Dubai

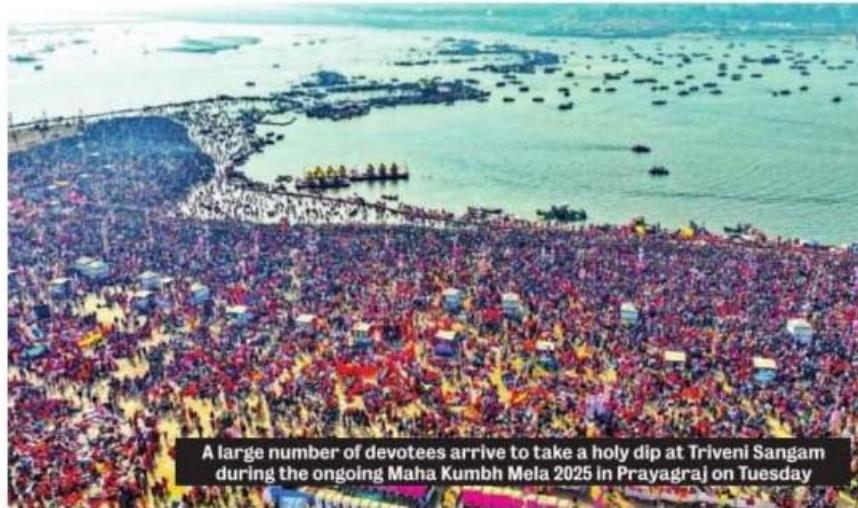
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As thousands from Bengaluru plan their journey to Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, to participate in the Kumbh Mela, they are facing a startling reality—airfare to Prayagraj has surpassed the cost of flights to international destinations like Singapore, Bangkok, and Dubai. For instance, on Tuesday, a flight ticket from Bengaluru to Prayagraj was priced at ₹27,533, while tickets to Singapore, Bangkok, and Dubai were significantly lower, at ₹9,543, ₹11,407, and ₹13,537, respectively.

A travel agent said that devotees eager to attend the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, are reeling from a sharp hike in airfares. Over the past 10-15 days, ticket prices have surged by 500-600% due to overwhelming demand, sparking outrage among travelers.

Airlines have reportedly in-



A large number of devotees arrive to take a holy dip at Triveni Sangam during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj on Tuesday

creased fares from cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, and Delhi to Prayagraj by up to six times, with return tickets for February 26—the concluding day of the Maha Kumbh Mela—seeing a similar price surge. Organisations are demanding immediate intervention from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to curb the price hikes. It may be noted that Centre on Monday had asked airlines to increase the flights to Prayagraj.

DGCA intervention falls short

The DGCA had earlier directed airlines to maintain reasonable pricing. On January 23, it held a meeting with airline representa-

tives to discuss fare regulation and approved 81 additional flights to Prayagraj, bringing the total to 132. Despite this, airlines have significantly inflated prices for single and round trips, ignoring the directives.

Fare deal

The fare hike has been most noticeable during special occasions such as Basant Panchami (February 3), Maghi Purnima (February 12), and Mahashivratri (February 26), when pilgrims travel in large numbers. With many planning short trips, return ticket prices for these dates have escalated dramatically. For instance, a one-way ticket from Bengaluru to Prayagraj for next week costs around ₹19,000,

while the return fare is as high as ₹45,000. On January 29, a prominent airline was charging up to ₹62,447 for a single ticket. Return flights from Prayagraj in February are priced between ₹33,000 and ₹55,000, compared to the usual ₹6,800-₹7,000 in March.

Pilgrim protest

With an estimated 45 crore people expected to visit the Maha Kumbh Mela, including millions arriving daily, pilgrims are accusing airlines of exploiting the demand. Many travelers have expressed displeasure, claiming ticket prices have surged by 200-700% compared to normal rates, making it unaffordable for devotees.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

No level playing field in allocations of bilateral rights: Akasa Air to govt

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 29 January

Akasa Air has told the Civil Aviation Ministry that the allocation of bilateral rights does not provide a “level playing field”, denying new entrants like itself a “fair opportunity” to compete with established airlines, such as the Air India group and IndiGo.

Bilateral rights, negotiated between two countries, determine the number of flights allowed between them. Each government then allocates its share to its airlines.

In a letter dated January 16, 2025, Priya Mehra, chief of governance and strategic acquisitions at Akasa Air, told Aviation Secretary Vumlunmang Vualnam that ensuring

an “equitable allocation” of rights, particularly for new entrants, is essential for fostering a competitive environment.

“Today, IndiGo and the Air India group hold a strong presence in the UAE, operating multiple daily flights between points in India and Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, and Ras Al Khaimah,” she wrote.

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AIR INDIA GROUP, INDIGO WAY AHEAD

Number of weekly flights scheduled between India and UAE in Jan 2025

Air India group*	628	
IndiGo	482	
SpiceJet	150	
Akasa Air	14	

*Air India group includes Air India and Air India Express
Source: Cirium

Requesting rights for 3 UAE destinations for over a year now: Akasa Air

Mehra further said, “We will agree that this reflects that there is no level playing field and presents a significant competitive challenge for a new entrant like Akasa Air. It deserves a fair opportunity to compete with airlines that already operate substantial volumes of flights between the two countries.”

Business Standard has reviewed the letter. According to aviation analytics firm Capgemini, Indian carriers operate a total of 1,274 flights per week between India and the UAE. Of these, approximately 492 per cent are operated by the Air India group and 374 per cent by IndiGo. The Air India group comprises Air India and its low-cost subsidiary, Air India Express.

Responding to queries about the letter, Mehra told *Business Standard* “At Akasa, we have always believed and emphasised that we are at this stage of our growth, both domestically and internationally, only because of the support and assistance we have received from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and other regulatory bodies. The ministry has always been very receptive to industry concerns, and we

continue to work under their guidance and leadership.”

The Ministry of Civil Aviation, IndiGo, and Air India did not respond to queries from *Business Standard* on the matter.

In his letter, Mehra stated that Akasa Air has been requesting rights for three destinations in the UAE — Dubai, Sharjah, and Abu Dhabi — for over a year. Specifically, the Akasa group’s airline has had “a few discussions” with ministry officials in recent months.

Following these discussions, Akasa Air decided to surrender its rights to its countries — Hong Kong, Kenya, Egypt, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Nepal — in exchange for additional rights for Abu Dhabi, she wrote.

Her rights are available for Sharjah — following the recent shift of 2,000 weekly seats from the Abu Dhabi pool to other cities — Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah — and subsequently allocate them to other Indian carriers.

“This is what raises a concern, that as far as we are aware, we have not seen provisions that permit such a shift, nor have we seen any precedent for this being done in the past. Second, even if we are mistaken in our understanding, there still remain unmet rights in the pool, which should be allocated to us. Third, if such transfers are permitted under bilateral arrangements, we question why we were not allocated rights to Sharjah in the past through a similar shift of the pool,” she wrote.

She requested Vualnam to advocate rights for Abu Dhabi for use during the ongoing winter season and the upcoming summer season.

“We will ensure that these rights are utilised within the shortest possible time frame required to meet additional flights,” she stated.

Additionally, if allocate transfer rights are available for Sharjah — following the recent shift of 2,000 weekly seats from the Abu Dhabi pool to other cities — Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah — and subsequently allocate them to other Indian carriers.

“This is what raises a concern, that as far as we are aware, we have not seen provisions that permit such a shift, nor have we seen any precedent for this being done in the past. Second, even if we are mistaken in our understanding, there still remain unmet rights in the pool, which should be allocated to us. Third, if such transfers are permitted under bilateral arrangements, we question why we were not allocated rights to Sharjah in the past through a similar shift of the pool,” she wrote.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

एअर इंडिया ने गलती से भेजा 'हार्डजैक' सिग्नल

नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली से मुंबई जा रहे एअर इंडिया के एक विमान ने उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद गलती से अपहरण (हार्डजैक) का संकेत भेज दिया। इस संकेत के बाद सुरक्षा एजेंसियां सकंते में आ गईं। इस मामले की जांच की जा रही है। यह मामला 27 जनवरी का है। सूत्रों ने बताया कि दिल्ली से मुंबई जा रहा विमान एआइ 2957 ने स्क्वाक कोड 7500 भेजा। कोड जारी होने के बाद पायलट इन कमांड ने संबंधित एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोलर को सूचित किया कि कोड अनजाने में दब गया है। बाद में विमान मुंबई एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षित उतर गया। (प्रेट्र)



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

सरकार के हस्तक्षेप से प्रयागराज का हवाई किराया हुआ कम

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : महाकुंभ प्रयागराज में भक्तों की भीड़ उमड़ रही है, जिसमें देश-विदेश से श्रद्धालु संगम में डुबकी लगाने आ रहे हैं। प्रयागराज तक आने के लिए विमानन कंपनियों के किराये आसमान छूने लगे हैं। उड़ानों के लिए अत्यधिक हवाई किराया पर जारी चिंताओं के बीच, नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एयरलाइंस को उचित कीमतें बनाए रखने को कहा है। सूत्रों ने कहा कि मंत्रालय के हस्तक्षेप के बाद देश की सबसे बड़ी विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने प्रयागराज के लिए किराये में 30-50 प्रतिशत की कमी की है।

यह मामला तब सामने आया है, जब उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्री प्रल्हाद जोशी ने कहा कि प्रयागराज की उड़ानों के लिए हवाई किराया बहुत ज्यादा है और उन्होंने विमानन निगरानी संस्था डीजीसीए से कीमतों को कम करने के लिए कदम उठाने का आग्रह

किया था। बुधवार को नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने सचिव वी वुअलनाम, डीजीसीए के महानिदेशक फैज अहमद किदवई और वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के साथ एयरलाइन प्रतिनिधियों से मुलाकात की। मंत्रालय ने पोस्ट में कहा कि नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री ने प्रयागराज के लिए हवाई कनेक्टिविटी की पर्याप्तता की समीक्षा की।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

29 JANUARY 2025

महाकुंभ पर अस्थायी उड़ानों पर सांसद की पहल, उड़डयन मंत्री की बैठक आज

जासं, कानपुर : महाकुंभ पर अस्थायी उड़ानों की सुविधा दिलाने के लिए सांसद रमेश अवस्थी ने पहल की है। इस मामले को लेकर उड़डयन मंत्री विभागीय अफसरों के साथ बुधवार को बैठक करेंगे। कई तरह की तकनीकी दिक्कत के बीच कम समय में अस्थायी उड़ानों की सुविधा की संभावना तलाशी जाएगी। बैठक में शहर से स्थायी उड़ानें बढ़ाने पर भी विचार-विमर्श होगा।

दैनिक जागरण ने मंगलवार के अंक में शहर से उड़ानें बढ़ें तो महाकुंभ जैसे आयोजनों में मिलने लगे सहूलियत का मुद्दा उठाया था। महाकुंभ के कारण इस समय उड़ानों के यात्री बढ़े हैं। उड़ानों का किराया कई गुणा बढ़ गया है। प्रयागराज की उड़ानों में सीटें न

- कुछ अस्थायी उड़ानों की सुविधा देने की तलाशी जाएगी संभावना
- शहर से स्थायी उड़ानें बढ़ाने पर भी किया जाएगा विचार-विमर्श



जागरण के मंगलवार को प्रकाशित खबर ●

मिलने पर लोग सुविधानुसार कानपुर या लखनऊ आने वाली उड़ानों से यात्रा कर रहे हैं। लोग शहर में उतरकर टैक्सी से महाकुंभ जा रहे हैं। शहर से इस समय बेंगलुरु, मुंबई, दिल्ली और हैदराबाद के लिए

उड़ान की सुविधा है। इसमें सप्ताह में मंगलवार, गुरुवार और शनिवार तीन दिन बेंगलुरु और बाकी के दिन हैदराबाद की उड़ानों की सुविधा है सांसद रमेश अवस्थी ने बताया कि महाकुंभ में शहर तक अस्थायी उड़ानों के बारे में उड़डयन मंत्री से उनकी बात हुई है। उन्होंने इस मामले पर बुधवार को विभागीय अफसरों की बैठक बुलाई है। अगर ज्यादा तकनीकी दिक्कतें न रहीं तो महाकुंभ के लिए स्थायी उड़ानों की सुविधा मिल सकती है। सांसद ने कहा कि बैठक में शहर से अन्य शहरों के लिए स्थायी उड़ानों को लेकर विचार-विमर्श होगा। अन्य शहरों के लिए उड़ानों का सर्वे शुरू कराया गया था। दिखवाया जाएगा कि अब तक कितना काम हुआ है।

AIRLINE WRITES TO MINISTRY

'Lack of Int'l Flying Rights Puts Akasa at a Disadvantage'

No level playing field for new entrant while IndiGo, AI hold strong presence in UAE: Exec

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: Budget airline Akasa Airlines said a freeze on international flying rights has stifled growth due to its inability to mount flights to lucrative destinations in the Middle East.

International flying rights between two nations are allocated on a bilateral reciprocal basis by governments to their respective airlines. Airlines can't operate more flights than their assigned capacity.

Akasa, in a letter to the civil aviation ministry last week, said unavailability of international flying rights puts them at a competitive disadvantage to incumbents like IndiGo and Air India who have cornered most of the existing rights. ET has reviewed a copy of the letter.

India and UAE have region-specific separate agreements with the four emirates — Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah. While Indian and Gulf carriers have exhausted flying rights for Dubai and Sharjah airports, and is near to achieving full utilisation at Abu Dhabi, the government is unwilling to hold fresh talks despite requests from foreign carriers.

This, officials say, is to provide a level playing field to Indian airlines and with the motive of developing Indian airports as transit hubs.

Gulf Air, with its large wide-body fleet, gets a large share of intercontinental traffic, flying Indian passengers to Europe and North America via Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha. Indian carriers, which don't have enough wide bodies, stick to flying between India and the Middle East where the ticket value is lower.

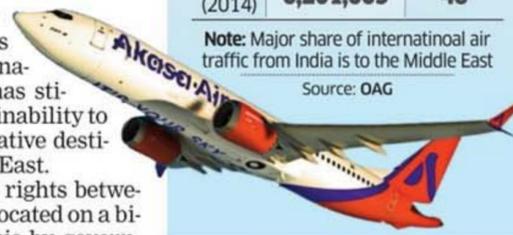
"We strongly believe that, as is done world over, ensuring an equitable allocation of traffic rights especially for new entrants is essential to nurture a competitive environment and provide equal opportunities for all Indian airlines," Priya Mehra, chief of governance and strategic acquisitions at Akasa, said in the letter.

Up in the Air



	Total seats on international routes	Share of Middle East traffic (%)
April (2024)	7,277,802	50
April (2014)	6,201,665	48

Note: Major share of international air traffic from India is to the Middle East
Source: OAG



"IndiGo and the Air India Group hold a strong presence in the UAE, operating multiple daily flights. You will agree that this reflects that there is no level playing field and presents a significant competitive challenge for a new entrant like Akasa Air," Mehra said.

A spokesperson for Akasa did not respond to ET's queries, except saying

Int'l flying rights between two nations are allocated on a bilateral reciprocal basis by govts to their respective airlines

the government has been very receptive to considering industry issues. Mehra, in the letter, said while Akasa has been seeking rights to boost flights to Abu Dhabi, the government allotted those seats for other airlines to launch flights to Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah. People aware of the development said starting more flights to Abu Dhabi is important for Akasa as it has signed a code sharing agreement with Etihad which would allow the carriers to jointly market a route, enabling them to expand their networks and fill their planes.

Government officials said this was done according to agreement between India and Abu Dhabi of 2014, under which 2,500 seats out of quota of 50,000 seats can be utilised for any other points in UAE, except Dubai.

"Akasa doesn't have the aircraft. There should not be a situation where rights have been allotted but no flights have been launched. That harms the passengers who could have benefitted from more flights," an official said.



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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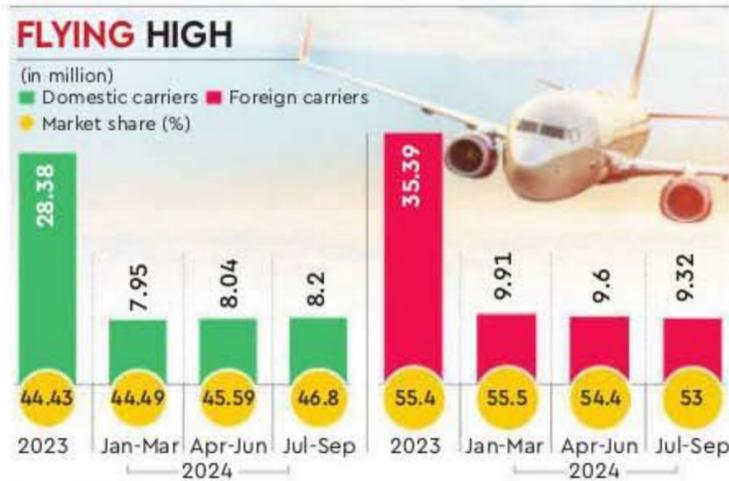


WELL-CAPITALISED CARRIER

Vinay Dube, CEO, Akasa Air

“...we're pleased with where we are financially. We have also said that we have been and will continue to be a well-capitalised company”

Indian carriers near 50% market share on international routes



Source: DGCA

■ According to latest data, seven Indian carriers accounted for 47% market share during the nine months to September

■ Air India has doubled its daily flight frequency on international routes to 313 compared to 157 three years ago

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
Mumbai, January 29

INDIAN CARRIERS HAVE raised their market share in the international segment to nearly 50% after a sustained and aggressive addition of new markets and rapid induction of new aircraft into the fleet.

According to latest data by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), seven Indian carriers accounted for an all-time high of 47% market share during the nine months to September, nearly ferrying 17.52 million passengers. The record comes in the face of strong competition from the foreign rivals.

Foreign carriers such as Emirates, Etihad Airways, Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines have traditionally been the preferred choice of Indian flyers despite their premium pricing due to their service and relatively younger aircraft lineup.

But led by the Air India group (Air India, Air India Express and Vistara) and IndiGo, Indian airlines have added to their market share through addition of multiple new routes and increased flight frequencies.

Air India has doubled its daily flight frequency on international routes to 313 compared to 157 three years ago.

Riding on a host of new generation planes offering the latest in-flight entertainment systems and upgraded seat comfort, the Tata group airline expanded to 48 international destinations now compared

to 39 earlier.

Air India has a total fleet of 300 aircraft including six new A350 wide-body planes, which have been deployed on premier routes like Delhi-New York and Delhi-London. These sectors were previously served by old legacy planes like the B777-300ER, which frequently attracted negative reviews from flyers.

Air India aims to serve the international long-haul market and markets with demand for premium traffic by creating a market hub like model.

“We will focus on building strong corridors at our hubs and all other point-to-point opportunities,” Nipun Aggarwal, chief commercial officer, Air India said earlier this month. Around 26 million passengers flew on the long-haul routes in FY24 and generated \$16 billion in revenue for Air India.

In the last two years IndiGo, India’s largest carrier, added 11 more international destinations including those that were below the radar for many carriers such as Tbilisi (Georgia) and Baku (Azerbaijan). With mostly single-aisle, short-haul planes such as the A320, the carrier presently connects to 37 international destinations, up from 26 earlier.

The international share (available seat kilometres) for IndiGo was 20% three years ago. This has risen to 28% as of December end. This will further increase with the induction of multiple A321XLR aircraft slated for the end of 2025.





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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

29 JANUARY 2025



'Prayagraj air fare has surged to Rs 60K'

A AP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Tuesday alleged a steep hike in airfare to Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, the venue for the ongoing Maha Kumbh, terming it "exploitation of faith" by airlines. Chadha claimed that airfare has surged from Rs 5,000 to Rs 60,000 per ticket during the Maha Kumbh, as he urged the Central government to take action in the matter. He demanded that the government either cap flight prices or ensure affordable travel options for the devotees attending the sacred event. The AAP leader said, "For the followers of Sanatan Dharma, the Maha Kumbh is the ultimate celebration of faith and spirituality."



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

29 JANUARY 2025

SpiceJet to re-induct its grounded Boeing 737 Max fleet into operations

ANI
NEW DELHI

SpiceJet is set to re-induct its first grounded Boeing 737 MAX aircraft into operations from Wednesday, January 29. It was grounded for several months and its return marks a significant milestone in the airline's fleet restoration and operational enhancement efforts.

To facilitate the restoration of its MAX fleet, SpiceJet recently entered into services agreements with StandardAero Inc, a leading US-based engine maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) provider, and CFM

International, Inc., the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) for LEAP-1B engines.

Under its ongoing fleet restoration plan, the airline aims to bring 10 aircraft, including four Boeing 737 MAX planes, back into service by mid-April 2025 and this is the first 737 MAX aircraft to be brought back under the exercise.

The addition of the MAX aircraft will enable SpiceJet to operate in high-demand markets such as Jeddah and Riyadh without any operational restrictions.

The induction of these planes will result in significant cost savings due to the MAX's reduced fuel consumption.



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विमान ने गलती से अपहरण होने के संकेत दिए, हड़कंप

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। दिल्ली से मुंबई जाने वाले एयर इंडिया के विमान ने अनजाने में हाईजैक सिग्नल भेज दिया, जिससे अफरातफरी मच गई। मामला 27 जनवरी का बताया जा रहा है। इस घटना की जांच के आदेश दे दिए गए हैं।

अफसरों ने बताया कि मुंबई पहुंचते ही सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल लागू किए गए और विमान को आइसोलेशन बे में ले जाया गया। सूत्रों के अनुसार, दिल्ली से मुंबई जाने वाली फ्लाइट एआई 2957 ने

स्क्वाक कोड '7500' का सिग्नल भेजा। स्क्वाक कोड को करीब तीन मिनट तक दबाया गया। कोड रिले होने के बाद पायलट इन कमांड ने संबंधित एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोलर (एटीसी) को सूचित किया कि कोड अनजाने में दबा दिया गया था। एयरलाइन के सूत्रों ने कहा कि घटना में चालक दल के किसी सदस्य के शामिल होने का कोई संकेत नहीं है।



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HINDUSTAN

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30 JANUARY 2025

‘कंपनियां प्रयागराज की उड़ानों का किराया घटाएं’

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। महाकुम्भ जाने के लिए प्रयागराज की उड़ानों के किराये में बेहतर बढ़ोतरी को लेकर बुधवार को नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने एयरलाइन कंपनियों को उचित किराया तय करने के लिए कहा। सूत्रों ने बताया कि इस निर्देश के बाद देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने प्रयागराज के लिए अपनी उड़ानों के किराये में 30-50 प्रतिशत तक की कटौती कर दी।

एयर इंडिया, अकासा एयर और स्पाइसजेट की ओर से प्रयागराज की उड़ानों के किराये को लेकर तत्काल कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की गई है। इसके पहले, उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्री प्राद जोशी ने प्रयागराज की उड़ानों का हवाई किराया बहुत अधिक हो जाने की बात कही। उन्होंने विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए से इस दिशा में कदम उठाने की मांग की।

एयरलाइन कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधियों से मिले मंत्री : नागर विमानन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने बुधवार को सचिव वी वुलनाम, नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के महानिदेशक फेज अहमद किदवई और वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के साथ

■ नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने एयरलाइन कंपनियों को उचित किराया तय करने के लिए कहा

प्रयागराज की उड़ानों के संबंध में एयरलाइंस प्रतिनिधियों से मुलाकात की। मंत्रालय ने 'एक्स' पर एक पोस्ट में कहा कि महाकुम्भ के दौरान उचित किराया बनाए रखते हुए देश भर से प्रयागराज के लिए हवाई संपर्क को पर्याप्तता की समीक्षा की गई।

31 जनवरी का टिकट 21 हजार रुपये से अधिक : इंडिगो की वेबसाइट के अनुसार, एक से 16 फरवरी तक दिल्ली-प्रयागराज उड़ान के लिए किराया 13,500 रुपये से थोड़ा अधिक है। 31 जनवरी के लिए टिकट की कीमत 21,200 रुपये से अधिक है और 12 फरवरी के लिए सबसे कम कीमत 9,000 रुपये है। इंडिगो लखनऊ, दिल्ली, कोलकाता, बेंगलुरु और अहमदाबाद से प्रयागराज के लिए उड़ानें संचालित करती है। वर्तमान में प्रयागराज के लिए लगभग 80 हजार मासिक सीटों के साथ 132 उड़ानों का संचालन हो रहा है।



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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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{ **SOUTH SUDAN** } A SOUTH SUDANESE NATIONAL IS THE ONLY SURVIVOR

1 Indian among 20 killed in plane crash



The wreckage of a plane that crashed in Unity State, South Sudan, on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

JUBA: A plane has crashed in the north of South Sudan killing at least 20 people, leaving only one confirmed survivor, Unity State's minister for information said on Wednesday. The aircraft came down near the oil fields in Unity State at around 10:30am local time shortly after taking off for the capital Juba.

"The plane crashed 500 metres away from the airport," Gatwech Bipal Both told AFP by

phone. "21 people were on board. As for now, there's only one survivor." The survivor, a South Sudanese engineer working at the oil field, has been rushed to Bentiu State hospital, the minister said. He said the Ukrainian Passenger aircraft, chartered by the Greater Pioneer Operating Company (GPOC) and operated by Light Air Services Aviation Company, was on a routine mission to the area. "The state gov-

ernment is in a deep sorrow by this accident", he added, saying there would be an investigation.

"Although most people predicted that this might be a mechanical collision," he added, without giving more details.

All of the passengers are employees of GPOC: 16 South Sudanese, two Chinese nationals and 1 Indian, according to the manifest seen by AFP, confirmed by local authorities. **AFP**



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DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

{ CONSUMER AFFAIRS MIN WRITES TO DGCA }

Govt steps in to arrest airfares amid Maha Kumbh

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NEW DELHI: Union consumer affairs minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday said that his ministry has written to the airline regulator, the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA), to take steps to “reduce” exorbitant airfares, which have made it difficult for devotees to attend the Maha Kumbh, the massive Hindu religious gathering currently underway in Prayagraj.

The consumer affairs ministry has urged the DGCA to review the spike in airfares and the sectors that have seen a sub-

stantial jump in base fares, apparently due to a steep rise in travel demand due to the Maha Kumbh.

“Mahakumbh is witnessing huge influx of devotees on a daily basis. The prices of airfares being exorbitantly high has made it difficult for people to make travel plans to attend Mahakumbh,” Joshi wrote in a post on X.

It came after consumer affairs secretary Nidhi Khare wrote to the regulator.

“Keeping consumers interest in mind, we have written to DGCA to take steps to reduce the prices of the air fares,” Joshi

added.

Both the civil aviation officials and DGCA held high-level meetings with major airlines — including IndiGo, Air India, SpiceJet and Akasa Air — to review airfares, an official said, adding that airlines should keep the larger consumer interest in mind despite a jump in demand.

The consumer affairs ministry is of the view that airlines should add more capacity, especially during the forthcoming “Shahi snan” (royal bath) days on February 3, 4, 12 and 26.

Ahead of the royal bath on Mauni Amavasya (on Wednesday) and other auspicious bath-

ing days for the Maha Kumbh Mela, airfares to Prayagraj from major cities have skyrocketed, HT reported on Wednesday.

While the ticket costs for Delhi-Prayagraj flights have soared to ₹20,000 or more from ₹5,000, the cost of an air ticket from Mumbai to Prayagraj ranged anywhere between ₹20,000 and ₹56,000. Similarly, the price of tickets for SpiceJet’s direct flight from Mumbai to Prayagraj starts at ₹20,482; IndiGo’s tickets are priced at ₹27,851 and above. However, flights with layovers are priced much higher, ranging from ₹30,000 to ₹56,159.

This sharp rise in fares has raised questions about the fairness of pricing.

An official of IndiGo, on the condition of anonymity, defended the price hikes, saying: “The airlines have not overcharged anyone; most of the fares are reasonable. However, some flights that involve one or two layovers naturally cost more due to the increased distance. Our dynamic fares need to be competitive.”

On Wednesday, however, IndiGo reduced its ticket prices to Prayagraj by 30% to 50%, the airline’s officials confirmed, without divulging details.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

WHAT WAS THE ROLE OF RIPUDAMAN MALIK IN 1985 KANISHKA BOMBING?

ONE OF the two hitmen who shot dead Khalistani separatist Ripudaman Singh Malik in 2022 has been jailed for life in Canada.

Malik was implicated in the 1985 bombing of Air India Flight 182 which killed all 329 individuals aboard, and was the deadliest act of aviation terrorism till the September 11 attacks in 2001. Malik would be acquitted in 2005.

On July 14, 2022, Malik was shot dead in his car in Surrey, British Columbia. Two Canadian youth — Tanner Fox, 24, and Jose Lopez, 26 — pleaded guilty to Malik's murder. Fox was sentenced on Tuesday (January 28); Lopez will be sentenced on February 6.



Wreckage of AI Flight 182 retrieved from the Atlantic. *Wikimedia Commons*

The Kanishka bombing

On June 23, 1985, Air India Flight 182 was on its way from Montreal to London when it disappeared from radar screens while flying over the Atlantic, near the Irish coast. The wreckage of the Boeing 747 jumbo jet christened "Emperor Kanishka" was located within hours. All 329 people on board — 268 Canadian citizens, mostly of Indian origin, 27 British citizens, and 24 Indians — were declared dead.

Investigations revealed that behind the deadly crash was the detonation of a bomb, likely placed inside a suitcase in the forward cargo hold of the aircraft.

Roughly an hour before the Kanishka went down, a suitcase bomb went off inside the terminal building at Tokyo's Narita airport. The bomb was meant to explode aboard Air India Flight 301 from Tokyo to Bangkok, but detonated prematurely. Investigations later found that the two bombings were related.

Role of Babbar Khalsa, Malik

Investigations concluded that the bombings were orchestrated by Khalistani separatist outfit Babbar Khalsa. The attacks were retribution for Operation Blue Star which saw the Indian Army enter the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1984 to flush out militants led

by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Talwinder Singh Parmar, the founder of Babbar Khalsa, was the alleged mastermind of the bombings. He was killed in an encounter by Punjab Police in 1992. The trial in Canada revolved around three main accused: Ripudaman Singh Malik, Inderjit Singh Reyat, and Ajaib Singh Bagri, all Canadian citizens.

While Reyat was arrested in 1988 in the UK, Malik and Bagri were arrested in Vancouver in 2000. Malik, said to be a close associate of Parmar, was the alleged financier of the plot. Both Malik and Bagri were associated with Babbar Khalsa.

A questionable acquittal

The trial for the Kanishka bombing began in 2003. Reyat was made a prosecution witness against Malik and Bagri after he pled guilty to "assembling parts for the bombs" that blew up Flight 182 in return for a five year sentence.

But on the witness box, Reyat refused to implicate his comrades and pretended to remember nothing. The judge called him "an unmitigated liar under oath". Reyat would be convicted on perjury charges in 2010, and sentenced to nine years in jail. Because of his "unreliable" testimony, and other procedural lapses by Canadian prosecutors, Malik and Bagri walked free.

ARJUN SENGUPTA





Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

प्रयागराज की उड़ानों के ऊंचे किराए पर हरकत में सरकार, इंडिगो ने घटाया किराया

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 29 जनवरी।

महाकुंभ के लिए प्रयागराज की उड़ानों के अधिक किराए को लेकर बुधवार को नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने एअरलाइंस से उचित किराया तय करने को कहा। इस

निर्देश के बाद देश की सबसे बड़ी एअरलाइन 'इंडिगो' ने प्रयागराज के लिए अपनी उड़ानों के किराए में 30-50 फीसद तक की कटौती कर दी है। सूत्रों ने यह जानकारी दी। इसके पहले उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्री प्रल्हाद जोशी ने प्रयागराज की उड़ानों का हवाई किराया 'बहुत अधिक' होने की बात कही और विमानन

नियामक से इस दिशा में कदम उठाने की मांग की।

प्रयागराज के संगम क्षेत्र में 13 जनवरी से शुरू हुए महाकुंभ मेले का हिस्सा बनने के लिए देश-विदेश के लाखों लोगों के पहुंचने की वजह से हवाई सफर की मांग में बढ़ोतरी से किराए में भी जबरदस्त उछाल आया है। इसे देखते हुए नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने

एअरलाइंस से टिकट की कीमतों को तर्कसंगत बनाने के लिए कहा था। नागर विमानन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने बुधवार को सचिव वी वुलनाम, नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय के महानिदेशक फैज अहमद किदवाई और वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के साथ प्रयागराज की उड़ानों के संबंध में एअरलाइंस प्रतिनिधियों से मुलाकात की।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025



Akasa Air chief Vinay Dube says the airline plans to add 5-10 new destinations next year. **PTI**

'Akasa Air set to add new destinations'

Akasa Air, India's youngest airline, is well-capitalized and plans to add 5-10 new destinations, including international routes, next year as it aims to maintain its position as the country's fastest-growing airline, chief executive officer Vinay Dube said.

Dube also projected an "incredibly bright" outlook for the next 30 years and said the delay in the delivery of one or two aircraft does not change the fundamentals of the airline's business or growth trajectory as it has built an extremely "strong and stable" platform.

The nearly two-and-a-half-year-old Rakesh Jhunjhunwala family-backed Akasa Air currently has a fleet of 27 Boeing 737 Max planes and commanded a 4.6% market share in CY2024.

"It is no secret that Boeing has been delayed in its delivery stream. No secret about that, either from us or Boeing or any other airline whether one or two aircraft were late or not, is not something that changes the fundamentals of our business. It does not change the growth trajectory," Dube said in response to a question on aircraft deliveries. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

Government asks airlines to maintain reasonable airfares for Prayagraj flights

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Amid persisting concerns over exorbitant airfares for Prayagraj flights, the Civil Aviation Ministry on Wednesday asked airlines to maintain reasonable prices, and sources said the country's largest carrier IndiGo has reduced the fares to Prayagraj in the range of 30-50 per cent.

The development also comes on a day when Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said airfares for Prayagraj flights are "exorbitantly high" and urged aviation watchdog DGCA to take steps to reduce the prices.

In the wake of the Kumbh Mela and resultant travel demand, airfares have surged for flights to Prayagraj and the civil aviation ministry had asked airlines to rationalise the ticket prices.

On Wednesday, Civil Avi-

ation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, along with Secretary V Vualnam, DGCA Director General Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, and senior officials met airline representatives regarding Prayagraj flights.

They reviewed the "adequacy of air connectivity to Prayagraj from across the country while maintaining reasonable fares during the once in 144 years Maha Kumbh Mahotsav", the ministry said in a post on X.

According to the ministry, regular coordination meetings have been held to provide a seamless and comfortable travel experience for millions of devotees attending the world's largest religious gathering from January 13 to February 26, 2025.

The sources said IndiGo has reduced the airfares for flights to Prayagraj in the range of 30-50 per cent.

There was no comment from the airline.

IndiGo's fares for Delhi-Prayagraj flights from February to 16 is now a little over Rs 13,500. For January 31, the ticket price is over Rs 21,200 and the lowest is around Rs 9,000 for February 12, as per its website.

Currently, IndiGo, the country's largest airline, operates services from Lucknow, Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Ahmedabad to Prayagraj.

Air ticket prices are deregulated in the country and there is no cap or floor for the fares.

Earlier in the day, Joshi said the airfares being exorbitantly high has made it difficult for people to make travel plans to attend the Maha Kumbh.

"Keeping consumers interest in mind, we have written to @DGCAIndia to take steps to reduce the prices of the air

fares," he said in a post on X.

There were no immediate comments on the Prayagraj flight airfares from Air India, Akasa Air, and SpiceJet.

On Monday, the civil aviation ministry said steps are being taken to rationalise airfares for flights to Prayagraj and the number of flights has been increased to cater to the rising traffic demand.

Currently, there are 132 flights operating with approximately 80,000 monthly seats to Prayagraj from various Indian cities. Prayagraj is connected directly with 17 cities against eight in December 2024.

The ministry, on Monday, said Prayagraj is well connected with direct and connecting flights reaching 26 cities, including Srinagar and Visakhapatnam.

The Maha Kumbh, which started on January 13, will conclude on February 26.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

Air India to resume Delhi-Tel Aviv flights

NEW DELHI: Air India will resume direct flights to Tel Aviv from March 2, after suspending the services in August last year amid tensions in the Middle East.

Five weekly flights will be operated from the national capital to Tel Aviv in Israel, the airline said in a release on Wednesday.

The airline will deploy its Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft having 18 flat beds in Business Class and 238 seats in Economy Class on the route.

The non-stop flights will be operated on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

The decision to resume operations on the Delhi-Tel Aviv route follows the requisite approvals, the release said.



In August 2024, the airline had suspended the direct flights in view of the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran.

On Tuesday, Israel's tourism minister Haim Katz said he was pushing for direct flight from Mumbai to Tel Aviv by Air India and Israeli airline EI AL.

AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

29 JANUARY 2025

SpiceJet to re-induct grounded Boeing 737 Max fleet into operations

MUMBAI: Domestic budget carrier SpiceJet on Tuesday said it is set to re-induct one of its grounded Boeing 737 Max aircraft into operations from January 29, as part of its plan to put all these planes back into service in a phased manner. The first such plane is set to be deployed on high-demand markets such as Jeddah and Riyadh, starting Wednesday, it said.

Grounded for several months, the aircraft's return marks a significant milestone in the airline's fleet restoration and operational enhancement efforts, SpiceJet said in a statement.

Under its ongoing fleet res-

toration plan, the airline aims to bring ten aircraft, including four Boeing 737 MAX planes, back into service by mid-April and this is the first 737 MAX aircraft to be brought back under the exercise, it said.

In addition to this, SpiceJet said it has since October last year added 10 aircraft to its fleet, comprising three previously grounded planes and seven newly-leased aircraft.

This has enabled the airline to expand its network with over 60 new flights introduced in the last three months, further enhancing connectivity and offering passengers more travel options, SpiceJet said. PFI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2025

1985 Air India bomber suspect's killer sentenced

OTTAWA

A Canadian court has sentenced a 24-year-old man to life after he pleaded guilty to the killing of a Sikh businessman, a suspect in the 1985 Air India bombing who was later acquitted, according to local media reports.

A British Columbia Supreme Court judge on Tuesday sentenced Tamer Fox to life with no parole for 20 years for killing Sikh businessman Ripudaman Singh Malik, the *CBC* news reported.

On July 15, 2022, Malik was shot dead while he was sitting in his car in Surrey, British Columbia. Malik and co-accused Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted of mass murder and conspiracy charges in 2005 related to the Air India bombing.

Two weeks after Malik's murder, Canadian police arrested Fox, a resident of Abbotsford, British Columbia, a city about 75 kms east of Vancouver, and accomplice Jose Lopez, from the Vancouver suburb of New Westminster.

They pleaded guilty in Octo-

ber last to the second-degree murder of Malik. Lopez will be sentenced on Friday.

Citing prosecutors, the *Global News* on Tuesday reported that the two men were hired and paid to kill Malik, but they have not revealed who they believe hired them.

Malik's family urged Fox to reveal who hired him.

"I'm asking both Mr Fox and Mr Lopez to do the

right thing," Jaspreet Singh Malik, Malik's son, was quoted as saying by the *Global News*.

"Tell the RCMP who hired you. Let those people be brought to justice. We hope and pray that the RCMP continue this work and search down and find and bring to justice those people who hired Mr Fox and Mr Lopez."

The bombing of Air India flight 182, flying from Canada to India, off the Irish coast killed all 329 people on

board, most of them Canadian citizens visiting relatives in India. The bombing is among the worst terrorist attacks in Canadian history and the history of the airline.

The plane was flying 31,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean when a suitcase bomb exploded in the front cargo.

Another bomb was meant to be planted in an Air India flight scheduled to take off from Japan, but it exploded at Tokyo's Narita airport, killing two baggage handlers.

PTI



Ripudaman Singh Malik

ज्यादा हवाई किराए पर उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्री नाराज

■ प्रयागराज जाने वाले तीर्थयात्रियों से ज्यादा किराया वसूली पर डीजीसीए को लिखा पत्र

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्री प्रल्हाद जोशी ने प्रयागराज के लिए 'अत्यधिक' हवाई किराए को लेकर नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को पत्र लिखा है। उन्होंने पत्र में किराए को तर्कसंगत बनाने को कहा है।

गौरतलब है कि प्रयागराज में महाकुंभ के आयोजन से हवाई किराये में अच्छी-खासी वृद्धि हुई

है। मंत्री ने अत्यधिक हवाई किराए पर चिंता व्यक्त की, जिससे श्रद्धालुओं के लिए धार्मिक समागम में हिस्सा लेना मुश्किल हो रहा है।

जोशी ने सोशल मीडिया मंच पर लिखा, 'हवाई किराया अत्यधिक महंगा होने से लोगों का महाकुंभ में आने के लिए योजना बनाना मुश्किल हो गया है।' इस महीने की शुरुआत में यात्रा मंच

इक्सगो ने कहा था कि प्रयागराज के लिए उड़ानों की बुकिंग के साथ-साथ



हवाई किराए भी कई गुना बढ़ गए हैं, क्योंकि काफी अधिक लोग

महाकुंभ के लिए यात्रा कर रहे हैं। दिल्ली-प्रयागराज उड़ानों के लिए हवाई टिकट की कीमतें 21 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ गई हैं।

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को कहा था कि हवाई किराए को तर्कसंगत बनाने के लिए कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। डीजीसीए अधिकारियों ने पिछले सप्ताह

विमानन कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ बैठक की, जिसमें उनसे अधिक उड़ानों का संचालन करने और टिकट की कीमतों को तर्कसंगत बनाने का आग्रह किया गया।

वर्तमान में प्रयागराज के लिए 132 उड़ानें संचालित हो रही हैं। वर्तमान मानदंडों के तहत, हवाई किराये नियमन के दायरे में नहीं है और उन पर सरकार का कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है।